



1-26-01



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

#4

NASA Case No. LAR 16220-1

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Ji Su et al

Serial No. : 09/696,527

Filed: October 23, 2000

For: MEMBRANE TENSION CONTROL

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Art Unit: 3662

Examiner:

*Handwritten signatures and initials, including "H4", "JPS", "Chal", and "6-13-01".*

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service by First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on January 22, 2001.

Date: Jan. 22, 2001

Robin W. Edwards  
Attorney

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.56, there is hereby provided certain information which the Examiner may consider material to the examination of the subject U.S. patent application. It is requested that the Examiner make this information of record if it is deemed material to the examination of the application.

1. Enclosures accompanying this Information Disclosure Statement are:
  - 1a. [X] Form PTO-1449.
  - 1b. [X] Copies of publications.

*Vertical stamp: RECEIVED JAN 23 2001*

LAR

1c. ☐ An English language copy of search report(s) from a counterpart foreign application or PCT International Search Report.

1d. ☐ Explanations of relevancy or English language abstracts of the non-English language publications.

2. ☒ This Information Disclosure Statement is filed under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b) before the latter of three months after the U.S. patent application filing date or the first Office Action on the merits. Accordingly, no fee or certification is required.

3. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is filed under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c) after the first Office Action on the merits, but before a Final Office action or a Notice of Allowance.

*(Check either item 3a or 3b)*

3a. ☐ The certification statement in Item 5 below is applicable. Accordingly, no fee is required.

3b. ☐ The \$200.00 fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c) is:

☐ enclosed.

☐ to be charged to Deposit Account No. 14-0116. If additional fees are required authorization is also given to charge these fees to Deposit Account 14-0116. A duplicate of this paper is attached.

*(Item 3b to be checked if any reference known more than 3 months ago)*

4. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is filed under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d) after Final Office Action or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of Issue Fee.

A Petition to the Commissioner is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d) to request consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement. The \$130.00 fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(1) is:

☐ enclosed.

☐ to be charged to Deposit Account No. 14-0116.

The certification statement in Item 5 below is applicable.

5. ☐ Certification Statement (*applicable if Item 3a. or Item 4 is checked*)

(*check either item 5a or 5b*)

5a. ☐ In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1), it is certified that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

5b. ☐ In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(2), it is certified that no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, was known by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

6. ☐ A Continuation application under 37 C.F.R. §1.60 or §1.62 is concurrently filed herewith together with a Petition to Withdraw from issue under 37 C.F.R. §1.313(b)(5). A continuation application under 37 C.F.R. §1.62 after payment of the issue fee is proper in accordance with the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office's authorization in the Federal Register, Vol. 57, No. 12, January 17, 1992, at page 2032 (Reply to Comment 82).

☐ A Continuation application is concurrently filed herewith.

☐ Copies of publications listed on the Form PTO-1449 from prior application Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_, of which this application claims priority under U.S.C. §120, have been omitted pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(d).

7. ☐ This Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(f) supplements the Information Disclosure Statement filed on \_\_\_\_\_. A bona fide attempt was made to comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.98, but inadvertent omissions were made. These omissions have been corrected herein. Accordingly, additional time is requested so that this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement can be considered as if properly filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ This Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is timely filed within one (1) month of the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office \_\_\_\_\_ Notice under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(i).

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8. ☐ In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98, a concise explanation of what is presently understood to be the relevance of each non-English language publication is:

*[check item 8a, 8b or 8c]*

- 8a. ☐ satisfied because all non-English language publications were cited on the enclosed English language copy of the PCT International Search Report or the search report from a counterpart foreign application indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign office. See U.S. Patent & Trademark Office's authorization in the Federal Register, Vol. 57, No. 12, January 17, 1992, at page 2031 (Reply to Comment 68).
- 8b. ☐ set forth in the application.
- 8c. ☐ enclosed as an attachment hereto.

9. No admission is made that the information cited in this Statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability nor a representation that a search has been made (other than a search report of a foreign counterpart application or PCT international search report if submitted herewith). 37 C.F.R. §1.97(g) and (h).

Respectfully submitted,

*Robin W. Edwards*

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Reg. No. 39,179

January 22, 2001

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